

# AMATEUR RADIO



Published in the interests of the Wireless Institute of Australia, Official Journal of all divisions of the W.I.A. and R.A.A.F. W.R.



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**MARCH 1939**

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## Divisional Addresses:-

FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS .. . . . BOX 2127L, G.P.O., SYDNEY  
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## Magazine Committee:-

Editor—W. R. GRONOW (VK3WG).  
Technical Editor—R. H. CUNNINGHAM (VK3ML); Notes—C. SERLE (VK3RX);  
Compilation—V. E. MARSHALL (VK3UK);  
Secretary—T. POWERS (VK3PS)

All Communications and MSS. should be forwarded to the Editor, "Amateur Radio," BOX 2611W, G.P.O., MELBOURNE.

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## EDITORIAL

We are delighted to be able to publish details in this issue of the requirements for enlistment in the reorganised R.A.A.F. Wireless Reserve, for the Unit is one of which the W.I.A. is very proud. Manned as it is solely by Radio Amateurs, for one of the requirements is that an applicant must be an active Ham, it can truly be regarded as the Australian Amateurs' Own Defence Unit. Although there is no official connection between the Wireless Reserve and the Institute, we all take a very keen interest in its well being, for that Unit stands for some of the finest aspects of our Hobby, personal sacrifice of time, personal endeavour to excel as an operator, accurate and efficient station handling and operation, but, broader still, that Unit is our Hobby's contribution to our Country's Defence Forces.

The Institute for long has realised the immense potential value of our members in an emergency, a communications emergency, that is and the recent bush fire holocaust provides a shining example of what can be done by organised Amateur Radio. But from a Defence point of view an entirely different picture presents itself. Modern warfare requires highly trained specialists, and even the best Amateur operators could not be used in our modern war machine until they had received intensive Service procedure training. Realising this, the Institute took the initiative, and in 1929 approached the Defence Services with a scheme. The Air Force accepted the proposal, which, broadly, provided that the W.I.A. would provide the operators and the R.A.A.F. the facilities for Service training, all on an entirely voluntary basis. So successful did the scheme

work out in practice that the Air Force formed a special section of the Reserve in 1933 so as to bring the organisation officially into being as an integral part of the Air Force.

Now once again the scope of the Wireless Reserve is being enlarged so that it may play a yet more important part in the Defence plan. The full resources of the Institute are 100 per cent. behind the Unit, and all Divisional Councils are doing everything in their power to help.

A large number of Institute members are already serving in various units of the three Services, but if you are not one of these here is a wonderful opportunity. It is superfluous for use to say that we know you want to do your bit, so what better Unit could you enlist in than one composed solely of your fellow-Amateurs?

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### FEDERAL CONVENTION.

The 1939 Federal Convention will be held in Melbourne over the Easter holiday period. A varied and attractive programme of social events for visiting Hams, as well as their YF's or YL's has been arranged, the highlight of which is the Convention Dinner on Easter Saturday night, 8th April. The Victorian Divisional Council extends a cordial invitation to Country and Interstate Hams to spend the holiday period in Melbourne. You can be assured of a good time at the greatest Hamfest for years. Full details of arrangements and dinner tickets may be obtained from Vaughan Marshall, 3UK, the Convention Organiser.

## More about Switching

(From Ken Kelly, VK3LL.)

On reading this month's Amateur Radio I noticed an article on Switching—a subject in which I have always had quite an interest.

Without wishing to appear too critical, it seems to be that there were rather too many switches needed, with the result that the change over switch finally used was rather cumbersome.

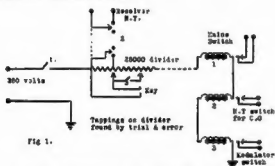


Fig 1.

I will describe the system used in my own rig, which, however, does present rather different problems. Briefly, I find it necessary to operate the transmitter 60 yards from the operating room; total control of the transmitter is carried out from three toggle switches on the receiver panel, change over being effected by a single switch. The actual control is by three relays. Now do not be scared off, as I used to be, by the mention of relays, they can be got for 2/- each, and only four are used (old P.M.G. relays).

The rig used here is 3 stage—6P6, 6L6G and 809, and also a modulator. Each stage has a separate power supply, and there is also a bias supply for the 809. Relay No. 1 switches on the power to all filaments. High tension is applied to the buffer stage, but very little current flows, as it is well biased by a cathode resistor. The bias supply uses an indirectly heated tube—I use a 59 with all grids tied to the plate—and in series with the bleed resistance is relay 4. This operates only after the 59 has heated up and passes current. During this period, the 83 mercury rectifier for the 809 supply has had time to get warm, and the H.T. to the 809 then automatically is applied by the closing of relay. This remains closed until the main relay turns off the whole transmitter. The 809 is biased to cut off,

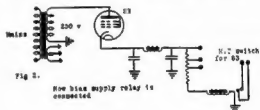


Fig 2.

How bias supply relay is connected

and so there is no current flowing when no excitation. Now when relay 2 closes, the high tension to the C.O. is turned on and the rig is on the air.

### ANOTHER SCOOP!

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Relay 3 when closed turns on the H.T. (or else the transformer primary—which ever is preferred) in the modulator. Relay 3 has an extra contact, which shorts the modulation transformer secondary when the modulation is off.

### How the Relays are Operated.

The windings of the relays are in series. They should kick over at different currents. In my case No. 1 at 25 m/a, No. 2 at 35 m/a, and No. 3 at 50 m/a.

If the receiver supply can stand an extra 50 m/a, they can be operated from the receiver supply, otherwise another source of D.C. must be used—6 volt accumulator, or an ordinary type of power supply, capable of delivering 50 m/a. This does not need to be filtered.

The fundamental circuit is shown in fig. 1. The resistor used with a power supply can be a 25,000 ohm. voltage divider. With a 6 volt battery the resistance will be of the order of hundreds of ohms. If it is intended to use a 6 volt battery, low voltage relays must be used—i.e., low resistance. It is the current that passes in the circuit that matters, and the resistance is just to control this to the correct values.

It will be seen that switch 2 is also used to switch off the receiver when transmitting. Break in operation is possible by use of the key, and is always used for c.w.

No attempt has been made to give all the details, as this will vary with each transmitter, but the idea given should enable anybody to adapt it to his own purposes.

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## World Radio Tour with VK3MR

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Hop on your mega cycle and come with me on a tour of the world calling on the countries that we hear so much and sometimes work! This is not meant for a lesson in geography although it could well serve as such, so get out your map and lets go.

We will commence from the North Pole and work down through North America, West Indies and to the South Pole via South America. The first obvious country is Greenland (OX), crossing the Denmark Sea we come to Iceland, where TF3C operates, a few miles south east of Iceland are the Faeroes Islands and to the north west are the Jan Mayen Islands, both signing OY and Danish possessions. We now call at New foundland, Labrador (VO), and between this country and Nova Scotia are two little known islands signing FP8, Miquien and St. Pierre Islands (French). Then crossing Canada (VE) we arrive in Alaska where the K7s are. Pribolof Island to the west of K7 also sign that call. We hurriedly pass through the land of grm and KW's, and pass through Mexico (XE), and continuing down the leg of Central America to Panama Canal we find in the following order Guatemala (TG), Salvador (YS), Hon-

duras (HR), British Honduras (VP1), Nicaragua (YN), Costa Rica and Cocos Island (TI), then comes Canal Zone (K5 and NY), and Panama (HP). Paying a visit to the West Indies, most of the VP gang are found. Referring to the list we find that VP1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9 are in that region with VP8 right down the south of South America in the Falkland Islands. Included in the VP's are South Georgia, S. Orkney and S. Shetland Islands but do not confuse these with Islands of the same name at the north of Scotland. British Guiana (VP3) is a South American country and Trinidad with Tobago Island (VP4) may be counted as South America for WAC awards. Other countries here are the familiar Cuban stations (CM and CO for fone), Haiti (HH) and our old fone pal HI7G in Dominican Republic. Several U.S.A. possessions, Puerto Rico (K4), Virgin Island (KB4), are to be found also, and two French Islands in Martinique (FM8) and Guadeloupe (FG8) with Curacao (PJ) and Dutch Island completing the list. In South America, we locate very easily in our maps the following: Argentina (LU), Bolivia (CP), Brazil (PY), Chile (CE), Columbia (HJ), Ecuador (HC), Paraguay

# Amateur Radio

(ZP, Peru (OA), Uruguay (CX), and Venezuela (YV). In Guiana, besides VP3, we have Surinam (Netherlands) (PZ), and FY8 belonging to France. Coming nearer home, in the Pacific Ocean, are all the VRs, and they are quite easy to locate on any map, VR1 to VR6. We have New Zealand (ZL) and three N.Z. Mandates in Cook Island (ZK1), N.Z. (ZK2), and West Samoa (ZM). Chatham Island to the east of N.Z. can safely be counted as a new country and uses the second district call of ZL. France is credited with several islands and are: New Caledonia (FK3), New Hebrides (FU3), and a group of islands towards Pitcairn Island known as French Oceania (FO8). Since the advent of a flying service between U.S.A. and the Philippines and China, many of the small islands around the equator have been used as bases and have delighted the hearts of the century club aspirants with several new countries. These are set out in the list of countries and bear no repetition here. Passing through our own country, we are told that Tasmania can be counted as a separate country (three cheers as I have worked a VK7, on fone too). Looking over the Dutch East Indies we locate most of the VS boys. VS1 to VS6 is there, with VS7 (Ceylon) and VS 9 (Maldivé Island) just west of Ceylon and VS8 in the Bahran Island situated in the Persian Gulf. That completed the VS gang and next month, if the editor permits, I will travel through Africa, Africa and Europe and will disclose the identities of the ZC, VQ and ZD countries.

## BRITISH ISLES.

England	G
Scotland	GM
Wales	GW
Isle of Man	G
Northern Ireland	GI
Irish Free State	EI

## BRITISH COUNTRIES AND MANDATES.

Australia	VK
Tasmania	VK7
Papua and Queensland	VK4
New Guinea	VK9
New Zealand	ZL
Canada and Nova Scotia	VE
New Foundland and Labrador	VO
India	VU
Eurma	XZ

Union of South Africa ..... ZS

## VR1 to VR6 OCEANIA IS.

Gilbert, Ellice and Ocean Is. ...	VR1
Fiji Is. ....	VR2
Fanning Is. ....	VR3
Solomon Is. ....	VR4
Tonga (Friendly Is.) ....	VR5
Pitcairn Is. ....	VR6
Samoa West	ZM
Cook Is. (N.Z. Mandate) ....	ZK1
Nuke Is. (N.Z. Mandate) ....	ZK2
Chattam Is. (to New Zealand) ...	ZL2

## VS1 to VS9.

Straits Settlements	VS1
Federated Malay States	VS2
Non Federated Malay States	VS3
British North Borneo (E. Indies)	VS4
Sarawak (E. Indies)	VS5
Hong Kong	VS6
Ceylon	VS7
Bahrain Is. (Persian Gulf)	VS8
Maldivé Is. (West of Ceylon)	VS9

## VP1 to VP9, WEST INDIES AND S. AMERICA.

British Honduras (Cent. America)	VP1
Leeward and Windward Is. (W. Indies)	VP2
British Guiana (S. America)	VP3
Trinidad and Tobago (South America)	VP4
Jamaica, Cayman, Turks and Caicos Is.	VP5
Barbados (W. Indies)	VP6
Bahama (W. Indies)	VP7
Falkland Is. (including S. Shetland, S. Georgia and S. Orkney Is., S. of S. Am.)	VP8
Bermuda (W. Indies)	VP9

## VQ1 to VQ9, in S. AFRICA and INDIAN OCEAN.

Zanzibar	VQ1
Rhodesia Northern	VQ2
Tanganyika	VQ3
Kenya	VQ4
Uganda	VQ5
Somaland British	VQ6
Mauritius and Chagos Is. (Ind. Ocean)	VQ8
Seychelles (Ind. Ocean)	VQ9

## ZD1 to ZD8, SOUTH AFRICA and S. ANT.

Sierra Leone	ZD1
Nigeria (Brit. Cameroons)	ZD2
Gambia	ZD3
Gold Coast (Brit. Togoland)	ZD4
	ZD5
Nyassaland	ZD6
St. Helena (S. Atlantic)	ZD7
Ascensions Is. (S. Atlantic)	ZD8



## ZC1 to ZC6, MED. SEA and IND. OCEAN.

Transjordan	ZC1
Cocos Is. (Ind. Ocean)	ZC2
Christmas Is. (Ind. Ocean)	ZC3
Cyprus (Med. Sea)	ZC4
	ZC5
Palestine	ZC6
Malta (Med. Sea)	ZB1
Gibraltar (Med. Sea)	ZB2
Tristan Da Cunha (S. Atlantic)	ZU9
South West Africa	ZS3
Rhodesia South	ZE
Anglo Egyptian Sudan	ST
Egypt	SU

## AMERICA & COLONIES.

U.S.A.	W
Alaska and Pribolof Is.	K7
Puerto Rico (W. Indies)	K4
Virgin Is. (W. Indies)	KB4
Canal Zone	NY & K5

## OCEANIC IS. (U.S.A.)

Hawaiian Is.	K6
Guam	KB6
Wake Group	KC6
Midway Is.	KD6
Johnston Is.	KE6
Baker, Howland and Phoenix Group	KF6
Jarvis and Palmyra Group	KG6
American Samoa	KH6

## FRANCE & COLONIES.

France	F
French India	FN
French Morocco	CN
French Indochina	FI8
French Oceania	FO8
French West Africa	FF8
French Guiana (S. America)	FY8
French Cameroons (Africa)	FE8
French Togoland (Africa)	FD8
French Somaliland (Africa)	FL8
Tunisia (N. Africa)	FT4
New Caledonia (Pacific)	FK8
New Hebrides (Pacific)	FU8

Martinique (W. Indies)	FM3
Algeria (N. Africa)	FA
Reunion Is. (E. of Madagascar)	FR8
Madagascar (Ind. Ocean)	FBS
Miquelen and St. Pierre Is. (N. Atlantic)	FP8
Guadeloupe (W. Indies)	FG8
French Equatorial Africa	FQ8

## PORTUGAL & COLONIES.

Portugal	CT1
Azores (N. Atlantic)	CT2
Madeira Is. (N. Atlantic)	CT3
Cape Verde Is. (N. Atlantic)	CR4
Guinea (E. Indies)	CR5
Angolo (S. Africa)	CR6
Mozambique (Africa)	CR7
Goa (India West Side)	CR8
Macua (China, S. China Sea)	CR9
Timor (Timor Sea)	CR10

## SPAIN & COLONIES.

Spain	EA
Balearic Is. (Med. Sea)	EAG
Canary Is. (N. Atlantic)	EA8
Morocco (Spanish)	EA9

## NETHERLANDS, DUTCH EAST INDIES, SOUTH AMERICA.

Holland	PA0
Curacao (W. Indies)	UJ
Guiana (South America)	PZ
Java Proper	PK123
Sumatra	PK4
Borneo	PK5
Celebes Molucca & New Guinea	PK6

## SOVIET UNION, EUROPE & ASIA.

European Socialist Fed. Rep.	U1-3
White Russia Socialist Rep.	U2
Ukrainian Socialist Republic	U5
Transcaucasian Socialist Fed.	
Soviet Republic	U6
Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic (Uzbekistan)	U8
Asiatic Russian S.F.S.R.	U9

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Danzig	YM
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Germany and Austria	D
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Hungary	HA
Italy	I
Latvia	YL
Lithuania	LY
Luxembourg	LX
Norway	LA
Denmark	OZ
Poland	SP
Roumania	YR
Sweden	SM
Switzerland	HB
Turkey	TA
Yugoslavia	YT, YU

## Africa.

Belgian Congo	OQ
Ethiopia	ET
Liberia	EL

## Asia and East Indies.

Afghanistan	YA
China	XU
Chosen (Korean) to Japan	J8
Hejaz (Arabia)	HZ
Iran (Persia)	EP
Iraq (Mesopotamia)	YI
Japan	J
Manchukuo (N. China)	MX
Philippine Is. (U.S.A.)	KA
Taiwan (Formosa) to Japan	J9
Tibet	AC4
Siam	HS

## North America and West Indies.

Cuba	(Fone CO), CW, CM
Costa Rica and Cocos Is.	T1
Dominican Republic (W. Indies)	H1
Faeroes and Jan Mayen Is.	

## (Greenland Sea)

Greenland	OY
Guatemala (Cent. Amer.)	OX
Haiti (West Indies)	TG
Honduras (Cent. Amer.)	HH
Iceland	HR
Mexico	TF
Nicaragua (Cent. Amer.)	XE
Panama	YN
Salvador (Cent. Amer.)	HP
	YS

## South America.

Argentina	LU
Bolivia	CP
Brazil	PY
Chile	CE
Columbia	HJ
Ecuador	HC

Paraguay	ZP
Peru	OA
Uruguay	CX
Venezuela	YV

## Correspondence

Box 7,  
Omeo,  
19/1/39.

The Editor "Amateur Radio."

Sir,

I have been requested by the president and members of the Omeo Relief Committee to express through "A.R." their deep gratitude and appreciation to all those fellow amateurs who associated themselves so wholeheartedly and efficiently with me in handling emergency traffic during the bush fire at Omeo and until communications were restored thereafter. May I add my personal thanks for the unhesitating and capable manner in which the boys disposed of the very varied traffic from 3.30 a.m. on Saturday until midnight on Monday last, during which a rough check-up reveals that some 731 messages passed. My very good friends, 3FL, 3NI and 3QG shared most of this, but there were many others assisting in forwarding messages or policing the channels. I have long held confirmed views on what radio amateurs could do in an emergency, and events of the past week (for the second time in 2½ years from this Q.R.A.) have amply justified that opinion. Thank you, boys.

A. R. WILLIAMS.  
3WE, "Bill."

S.S. Ormonde,  
1/2/39.

The Editor "Amateur Radio."

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank the hams in the VK4 Division for the enjoyable time I spent with them. VK4JP, George, has certainly got some rig out there. I enjoyed operating 4JP's gear. Working DX is no trouble at all to George. While I was in the shack that was in the early afternoon the Ws seem to hear George on phone at a very nice solid R9. This was on 14mc. Certainly that rotating

## Amateur Radio

beam does its stuff. VK4PX, Arthur, has a nice little QRP job and has certainly been working DX on 14 mc. C.W. VK4CX, John, has also a nice little F.B. rack, also QRP, but very effective. I hope when I arrive home in Scotland on 12th March that my 14 mc. rack reaches as far as the VK4 division. So any VK, if he is around the H.F. end of the band I will only be too pleased to have a contact. Thanking 4JP, 4PX and 4CX for their true ham spirit and only hoping I can do the same for them, or any other VK, when he comes over to Scotland.—Yours etc.,

ERIC W. STEWART.  
GM3HX.

Mr. W. R. Gronow,  
2 Anthony street,  
Glen Iris, S.E.6.

Dear Sir,

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst., and was particularly interested to read of the activities of your mem-

bers in providing emergency communication during the recent disastrous bush fire period, and I will be very pleased if you will extend to your fellow members my very keen personal appreciation of their public spirited efforts in this direction.—Yours etc.,

GALBRAITH,  
Chairman  
Forests Commission of Victoria.

The President,  
Wireless Institute of Australia,  
191 Queen street,  
Melbourne, C.I.

Dear Sir,

Will you please accept on behalf of yourself and your members who so promptly and capably handled urgent re traffic via portable amateur radio stations during the recent disastrous bush fires, the grateful thanks of this Commission.—Yours etc.,

G. K. COCKBURN,  
Secretary,  
Forests Commission of Victoria.

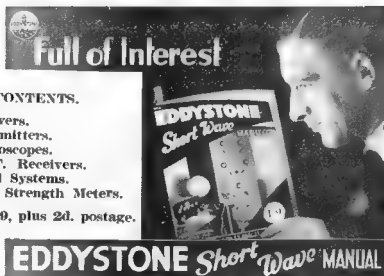
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## The R.A.A.F. Reserve W/T Section

---

There are vacancies available in the R.A.A.F. Reserve W/T Section and as active training will recommence shortly, immediate application is desirable. Details of enlistment are as follows:—

Applicants must:

- (1) Be of a standard physical fitness equivalent to that required for enlistment in the Citizen Air Force, and should be aged between 18 and 40 years.
- (2) Own an Experimental Wireless Transmitter licensed by the P.M.G.'s Department.
- (3) Be able to send and receive accurately at 16 w.p.m.
- (4) Not be under an obligation to serve in the Naval, Military or Air Forces, nor be a member of the Police Force.
- (5) Be prepared to carry out certain prescribed training, and attend the Annual Camp.

Amateurs enlist for a period of four years. The Air Board may, however, dispense with the services of a member at any time for failing to complete his training or for any other reason, and a member may terminate his engagement, except in a time of National Emergency, by giving 14 days' notice in writing to the Secretary of the Air Board.

All training is carried out from the Home Station, except at the Annual Camp, at which advanced training and instruction in allied subjects is given. In addition, two Field Exercises are held annually. Home training is carried out by regular weekly schedules, but when a member attains a certain standard of efficiency he attends special schedules only. The Air Force supplies each member with a crystal ground to his section frequency, he is given an Air Force call sign, and is supplied with

the necessary log books, message pads, manuals, etc.

The life of a Reserve Member is varied and interesting. Traffic is something not permitted to be handled by the Australian Amateur, but as a Reservist he can handle as much Wireless Reserve traffic in his section as time permits. He learns methods of encoding and decoding messages and handles many in cypher. He learns both W/T and R/T Procedure, and by regularly handling traffic finds that his ability as an operator increases immensely. The aim of the Wireless Reserve is a fine one for the Amateurs, through their Hobby, provide an efficient Wireless Unit for the Air Force at very little cost to the country.

Applications for enlistment should be sent to The Secretary, THE AIR BOARD, VICTORIA BARRACKS, ST. KILDA ROAD, MELBOURNE, SC.1.

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### Another Certificate for the Pot Hunters

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(Broadcast from W1AW and via VK3HG.)

A new "worked all VE" operators' certificate has just been made available to all amateurs by the VE operators' association. Applicants should use two bands in submitting proof of contacts with two stations in each province. Yukon territory and Northwest territories are considered part of the British Columbia. All contacts must be made from one state or province. If you are a member of the VE operators' association, 106 Warvis street, Toronto, Ontario, fee is waived, otherwise send 25 cents with your eighteen cards to defray handling charges on your "Worked all VE" certificate.

## Federal and Victorian QSL Bureau

(R. E. Jones, VK3RJ, QSL Manager)

The new QSL Manager for W3 is Maurice Downs, W3WU, 1311 Sheridan street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

VS7GJ advises through VK7CL that he will be on an eight months' vacation to Europe from 25/3/39 and there will of course be some delay in answering QSL's.

Speaking of vacations reminds me that I will be on annual leave for three weeks from 1st March. Tentative itinerary provides for a fortnight in the Ballarat Rokewood district in search of the valuable but elusive yellow metal. Correspondence will suffer some delay during this period.

Some interesting info on EP5SO (operated by G5SO) comes to hand via VK3GP. The station is situated at an altitude of 5,000 feet near the North West frontier of Persia and is a TPTG using 2 watts from receiver batteries, yet is Q4 R5 in VK.

VK3WL, Wal Nye, late of Coburg, but now in a spanking new home right opposite this QSL bureau, will have to guarantee the QSL manager immunity from QRM before Wal's masts are released from voluntary imprisonment underneath the bureau, where they were stored during the erection of Wal's home.

Cards for the undermentioned VK3 stations are wearing out their welcome at the Bureau, 23 Landale street, Box Hill. A 2d. stamp will find them a new home:—VK3AC, AD, AP, AT, BE, BF, BH, BK, CA, CQ, CU, DC, DE, DU, DZ, EH, EI, EO, EY, FS, FT, FZ, GE, GJ, GO, GU, HB, HE, HI, HP, HS, HV, IB, ID, IJ, IF, IK, IL, IN, IP, IV, JH, JL, JM, JN, JS, JV, JZ, KC, KL, KM, KP, KQ, KS, KT, KY, LG, LD, LQ, LM, LW, LX, MJ, NF, NG, NT, OL, OQ, OP, OF, PH, PJ, PK, PF, PN, PS, PV, PZ, QC, QG, QH, QR, QT, RA, RF, RQ, RR, RZ, SD, SE, SC, SM, ST, SK, SZ, TC, TD, TK, TP, TU, TY, TZ, UF, UG, UO, US, VD, VK, VG, VJ, VM, VN, VP, VY, WU, WX, XC, XA, XE, XH, YF, YM, YR, YS, YQ, YT, YW, YZ, ZA, ZF, ZG, ZD, ZS, ZW, ZL.



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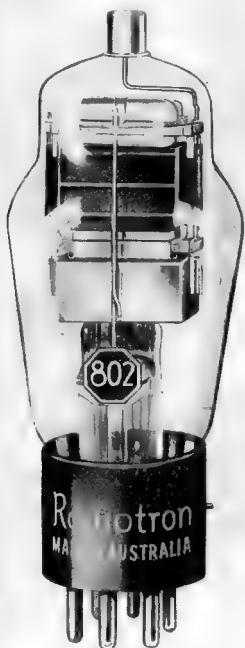
## 28 and 56 M.C. Notes

(By A. Pritchard, VK3CP.)

Conditions on ten metres show about the same activity as last month except that New Zealand stations are coming through with more strength than we have heard for several months, showing that the skip is shortening. The Europeans are heard only occasionally, yet many are on the air during the evenings they do come through. PAOFB is the most outstanding and has been contacted by most of the local gang. we are finding the various districts in the States coming through at quite different times from what we have been accustomed to hearing them. A year ago the East Coast stations W1, 2 and 3 very seldom came through later than 8 a.m. At present they come through as late as 11 a.m. The accustomed 10.30 a.m. fade out for W9 signals has increased until a little after noon. The W7s were in the past at their best at 1.30 p.m., but the peak is now around 11 a.m. The VE5s seem to be the latest consistent sigs and 2 p.m. shows fair strength from that quarter. The W6s, those famous Californian Kilo Watts (or more likely—more!) phones come through all the time—hi!!—during the morning and until 2 p.m. The majority in the States are using the now famous three element close spaced beam and as they have such a tremendous gain in the aimed direction for receiving, the problem has arisen now that, during their interstate contacts, there is less likelihood of our signals being heard by their great numbers except during the week-ends when they listen for us. There is the same trouble with the Europeans because they have their beams pointed towards the States. It is fortunate that ten metres started with zepp antennae because we have had the opportunity to find out approximately the most suitable times for contacts with the different parts.

The following times will give a fair indication for listening:—On

the average 6.30 a.m. till 2 p.m. for the States and up till 5.30 p.m. for K6s; 4.30 p.m. till 6.30 p.m. for South Africa; 6.30 p.m. till 8 p.m. for Asia and Northern Oceania; 7 p.m. till 11 p.m. for Europe. South Americans have been heard at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and LU contacted by VK3YP at 3 p.m., so any definite time for that continent is rather difficult to foretell. An interesting letter from VK5KL shows slack conditions for the last few months, 5ZU is building a 70 feet lattice mast which is nearing completion for a 5 mx beam array. VK5KL is rebuilding for 5 mx with a 6L6 co, 6L6G dbir to 10 and TZ 20 dbir to 5mx. There are many using cw at present and PK6XX, VS6OA and VU2AN are fairly consistent between 6 and 8 p.m. at the week-ends. VK3BW is getting fair efficiency on 5 mx with his 100 TH final driven by an 808 doubler from 10. The Trimax driver and universal output mod. trans gives us good phone from the class B stage. VK2UC and 2ADT are heard called by the Ws, but are inaudible here. VK3BQ has been testing the X match on 2 half waves in phase but a new 3 element beam gives a 4 R gain over anything yet tried by Max. A new receiver using 1500 KC IF's, is on the way. 3CZ has R9 contacts with Ws and yet another 3 element beam, hi!! VK3HK has the rotating mechanism well nigh perfect. It consists of a 3 inch diam. wood drum fixed under the beam cross support, which has the support shaft through the centre. An endless rope goes round this drum then to the side over a fixed double pulley block, then down to another pulley block near the bottom of the pole (which has a movable weight to keep the ropes always tight), then across to the shack and around a larger drum which has a shaft through the wall to the turning wheel inside. Keith has had r8 contacts on phone with PAOFB and r8 cw with GM6RV apart from the usual Ws.



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# RADIOTRONS

## FK8AA

(By Ray Graf.)

Being the writer's good fortune to have his annual holidays coincide with the time that there was a cruise to Noumea, he availed himself of the trip, and besides seeing many interesting things, gleaned the following information about FK8AA, whom he met. He is a Frenchman, and knowing only about a dozen words of English, conversation was fairly difficult.

The QRA is at 44 Rue de l'Alma at the far side of the town from the quay. The transmitter consists of a 2A5 xtal osc. 6L6G buffer link coupled to a pair of 801s in push pull with the power being between 40 and 70 watts. The receiver is an O-V-1 57 det and 2A5 audio. The antenna is a single wire fed Hertz 24.5 metres long and tapped 6.75

metres oc centre. The bands used for ham work are 20 and 40 mx.

On every Wednesday and Saturday between 1830 and 1930 FK8AA transmits on 49 metres under the call of Radio Noumea. He appreciates any reports and always acknowledges them with his station QSL.



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## VK3MR's DX Notes

The BERU tests are well over now and by the time these notes are read we will be at the ARRL battle. Very much regret that no rules of the BERU tests were available, but they only arrived this month. Conditions during the four days seemed very good and many of the rarer British countries were worked. The new rules have met with general favour and some high scores are anticipated.

2DG scored 781 points and is very pleased at the whole thing as he worked five new countries, which brings his total up to 122. Fine work Keith OM. Keith is sending his two junior ops, to his mother-in-law's house during the next test. It is hard to understand why VU7BR signs that call when it should be VS8 for Bahrians Is. Light will dawn later I hope. Some choice ones worked by 2DG in the senior BERU are VU7BR, ZC6EC, ST6LR, VQ3HJP, VP3ZA, VPIAA and several XZs. By the sound of ZC6EC's fist it might be old SJ1EC who has been absent for some time on leave in England.

VX2NQ passed this dope on via 3BM. Has worked some good 'uns in CP1AA, 14300 kc, 5.30 p.m.; VO6B in W fone band (that's a rare one); ZP2AC, 14130 kc; FA3HC, 14130 kc, 5 p.m.; LA8C, 14100 kc. 2GM is making it a hobby working CN stations. He reports CN8AW, 14035 kc, 6.30 a.m.; CN8BA, 14095 kc and CN8MB, also 14095 kc. AC4YN was worked by 3OW on 14350 kc, and his "close" cousin worked TG9BA, 14250 kc. 3HG heard a lot of Ws on 7 mc at 10.30 a.m. on 7th February. Most unusual time and doubt very much if they can be worked. Has anybody ever worked the west coast of U.S.A. on 7 or 14 mc. the long way round—that is from 6 a.m. onwards?. It is easy on 28 mc as the sigs come straight across, whereas the 7 and 14 mc sigs come via South Africa.

We read with interest VK2AHM's work with grp using Vee Beams and the value of this type of aerial is again brought before us by 3XB, who uses a 19 in the PA and has worked a W8 with .04 W on 7 mc, of all bands. His Vee has 3½ waves on this band. He has worked 29 zones,

but is still looking for South America for WAC (who isn't?). His line up is as follows:—19 PP Xtal Osc. 100 volts; 19 push pull doubler, 180 volts and 19 PP 300 volts, about 9 watts max. Guess the bcl's must suffer in Rupanyip! The D's signing, call with "W" on the end are ex "OE" stations, which is interesting to note.

Fone.—These he men have still been doing some good work on 14 mc and have had a slight setback on learning that CN1AF is a pirate! Cheer up boys, there is still CN1C on 14100 kc. 3HG can still work a few South Americans on fone; he contacted CE1AH and HK5AR on about 9 p.m. when they come through very well most nights now. VK7AB has plate modulation now and finds it much better than grid (I notice) and is looking for South Africa now for WAC fone. Try about 2 a.m. Doug and all will be well. Let's see what 3BM has been up to! I had a personal qso with Bruce while he was down in the city lasting from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. next morning. Bruce has decided that dx is too easy on CW after this chat so he is sticking to fone (what a weak excuse, Bruce! Can't you get the BFO to osc after all?). He reports OA4AI, 14100 kc, 9 p.m.

What's this I hear about VK7JB and 7KV not qslg to VP9G who worked them about two years ago, and they are the only VK7s he has worked! Shame on you Buck! 3BM worked him at 6.20 a.m. the long way. FN1C's qra is Dave Patterson, Goncalpara, Chandernagore, which is in French India, 15 miles north of Calcutta. He is a Scotchman in the diplomatic service. 2GM also doing a lot on 30 watt fone and reports FN1C, VP6LN and FB8AH, who is a French doctor and speaks English very well. ZC6E is also working on fone as well as CW and only can operate when the army rig is off. VQ2HC, 14060 kc, can be worked about 3 a.m. most mornings.

Conditions are on the improve lately so some real dx will be worked during the winter. Best of luck to all and good hunting in the Yank test.

## Divisional Notes

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To ensure insertion all copy must be in the hands of the Editor  
not later than the 10th of the month preceding publication.

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### N.S.W. Division

#### ZONE 5 NOTES. (VK2IG.)

Hot weather and QRN have been keeping the locals quiet and the DX is not so easy to raise.

VK2OJ is away on a cruise for his holidays. We sure envy Noel this weather.

VK2AP busy settling down to married life and not much time for radio.

VK2QE got his rig out but put it away again as too qrl.

VK2QD.—We forgot to mention that Hilton was on the air. Oh yeah! All the neighbours knew it. He's learning to play (?) the trumpet!

VK2EU is busting his bankroll on a super speech amp. and modulator and tells the boys to look out for their recvrs.

VK2VK home and started in to rebuild his rig. The result is that most of the locals are off the air after handing VK back his bits and lending him other bits he wanted Ham spirit!

No news from Wagga or from 2AFD. We reckon that they still live or have heard 2AEO working the DX.

VK2IG reckons that the winner of the BERU is lucky as 2IG didn't read the rules properly and so missed the contests! Hi!. Remodelling again.

We are still hoping that some gink with more time than sense will send us some news one of these days from other parts of this zone and if the depression still bothers the afore-said ginks they can send the news along C.O.D.!

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#### BORDER DX NOTES.

DX heard and worked in this zone this last month are as follow:—

CT1PC on CW is T9 on about 14350 at 2000 E.S.T. CN8AN chirpy

qri T8 about 14365 at 2000 to 2200. PK4KO is old PK2KO and with PK4KS any evening is T9 about 14350 to 14360. FU8AA chirpy and creeps from 14365 to 14355 T7 in early pm's. GW5MD T9 on 14365 around 2000. GM5DM and GM8FB ditto. XZ2LZ is old VU2LZ T9 and with XZ2JB pounds in most evenings. MX4AH varies from T9 to T6 on 14330 from 2100 to 2300. OA4R T9 at 2100 on 14250. CS2V.—Don't kid yourself you have got a new country here unless Portugal is not on your list as this is an experimental station at Lisbon. T9 at 2000 to 2200 around 14350.

Others listed are LA7A, LA7W, EI4J, HC1FG, HC1JW, KC6DHW, KD6LH, ZC6EC, VP1JR and VP7NT. Those KC, KD and KF stations can be contacted during the mornings around 11 a.m. quite often.

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#### Coalfields Notes — — — — —

2PZ.—Active on 20 metre band, using class B modulation, working the usual dx which is about, leaving this week on annual holidays.

2CW.—Inactive on 40 metres, very little doing in radio, interested in Y.L. at the moment.

2KQ.—Active on 80 metres, usual rag chews which one finds on that band, have not had the pleasure of meeting you yet, O.M.

2ACQ.—Using 20 metres, also 40, fairly active and having some good QSO's with 2CX, another local who keeps him company.

2YL.—Always on 20 or 40 metres, dragging in the usual dx on phone, sorry I was not at home O.M. when you called.

2DG.—Very active, and in the B.E.R.U. in both sections and doing very well, has a nice array of certificates in shack since I saw it last, changing to 6P6 E.C. to a 807 and

808 final, still using the good old zepp with 119 countries tacked to it, and 50 watts input.

2XT.—Looking around for some suitable shack to start up again in Kurri Kurri, has a nice two seater to gallop about in, doing a fair bit of service work.

2KE.—You promised to get going in the new year OM, so far I have not heard you warm the tubes up O.M.

2YO.—Hear you working a few phone stations now and again on 20 metres, complains about the hot weather. Hoping to see you soon.

2KZ.—Doing very little in radio, busy otherwise at the moment, but on 20 metres when active, trying to arrange trip for all this area to visit the new B Class station 2K of Cessnock; also hiding a little cash from the Y.F. so as the O.M. can buy a modulation unit.

## Victorian Division

### SW AND BC SECTION.

No news re December meeting as these sections do not meet. January meeting usual "gang," and was to have continuation of VK3LN's trip through U.S.A. via films, but will be continued in the February meeting, 28th, and all members of W.I.A.—fone sections—cordially invited. Rather a lengthy discussion took place re portables in the cases of emergency and a committee was formed to go into detail of the procedure for these emergencies. A visitor from Sale, VK3RG, who took a part in the recent bush fires, gave a short talk on his work in same, and very interesting. Now for some doings of the hams.

3AM on 20 makes a name for himself as he also does on 200, believe to be removing again? Seems bad, Arthur? Quality never varies.

3BY with 3TH at the helm on 200 metres, usual standard.

3DH active on 5-20-200 metres, excellent transmission.

3HK a vee beam 7 wavelengths for 20 and active on 200 metres.

3GK only on 200 metres, believe to be constructing SW transmitter.

3RI usual standard of transmission. 3PA, 200 metres, makes a noise and fb quality. 3GY active on 200, can't say if you can be heard on 20 or 40 metres. 3FL of bush fire

fame active on 10, 40 and 80, likewise 200 and a crystal mike. 3CB still low power 200 metre fone, but slowly increasing power and gradually coming on to 40. 3LN plenty of noise and fb quality, 200 metres, cant say about 40 and 20. 3JR good quality, but breaks up occasionally; keeps sked with VK3GK, 3RI, 3CB Sunday mornings between 7 and 8 a.m. on 200 metres. He is also active in 20 with a beam ant.

3IW active on 20 fone, also did a little work in recent bush fire trouble; recently installed an eco for 20 metres. 3EM fb fone and must confess that always enjoy listening to Henry's voice. 3TW always seems to have a new transmitter, but quality fb; good work, Tim. 3CB active on the listening side, slowly building sw transmitter. A new ham, VK3UC, about 100 yards away, keeps Richmond on the map (cw only). 3EF never tires or sleeps? 3SO believe to be a great noise on fone 20, but a little selfish.

If you SW fone boys want your activities known, let me have the information as I am no thought reader and besides, it is up to you to include them in the mag. as it not only helps our book, but it helps yourselves.

3JB.—What has happened to you?  
WM. F. SIEVERS.

Key Section Notes ———  
(By COC.)

The February KP meeting was not quite so well attended as usual, but made up in quality, so to speak, what it lacked in quantity. Your correspondent was not able to stay for the party, which was to take place at the conclusion, but from the appearance and shape of sundry brown paper parcels scattered here and there, and noticeably parched looks on the faces of the boys, all should have been very well.

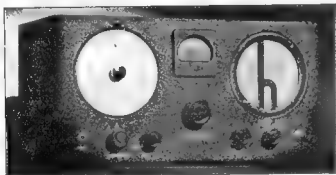
That old bone of contention, Fone versus CW, was once again dragged out of its dustbin, and whatever meat still remains on it was attacked voraciously. This annual feast is one occasion when the severest critic could not accuse the section of apathy, and if for no other reason, this alone should make it worth while. Your correspondent's own

views on the subject are too well known to bear repetition here, but he feels some satisfaction in that the general tone of the meeting was definitely in favour of some more stringent form of control of fone stations than was the case in last year's celebrated brawl.

Before getting off the subject, and altogether apart from the Fone QRM angle, why is it that not more than about fifty per cent. of fone stations use decent English. You don't have to take a course in elocution, although that certainly is an idea, but why, for instance, this "handle" business. Mugs have handles, and so have other domestic utensils which are very useful in their right places, but why, when you want to know a fellow's Christian name, ask for his "handle." Admittedly, Amateur Radio has developed a language to some extent its own, and made necessary in order to simplify and speed up CW operation, but the language is not adaptable to fone, as evidenced by the futility of "Hi-hi-

ing" into the microphone instead of laughing or chuckling normally. As for "handle," this type of slang is inexcusable on any grounds.

Having cleared the decks of that, let's see what the boys are doing. To the dissatisfaction of the local sparrows, who thought they were on a good thing, HK has shortened slightly the reflector and director of the 28 mc three element rotary beam, and it is now doing its stuff properly. The signals from the back are way down, and DX no trouble. An H type array on 56 mc is being used by JE, who hopes to QSO Melbourne direct. Between periods of chasing the elusive DX on 14 mc, CO is also on 56 mc, and is building a super for this band. BQ is still making little ones out of big ones with his crystal saw, and was using Q bars on two half waves in phase for testing his finished products until the Q bars come adrift. He is now trying out a Y match when QRM permits. ZU is getting down on 28 mc,



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and IG has his receiver working on that band.

At the KP meeting UK and UM both gave very interesting talks on their experiences during the bush fires. Members of the gang who put up such a fine show on that weekend have all recovered from their trips, and have been busy getting bugs, ashes, and what not out of their gear. To make matters worse, one of the boys has just received an account from a local garage for 10/- for hire of a storage battery, which he borrowed for the occasion, and in view of the circumstances, that particular garage's petrol sales seem due for a decided falling off.

Suddenly smitten with the futility of it all, EB has abandoned radio in favour of building motor boats. Those familiar sounds which emanate from bad amplifiers will in the future be music to his ears! Having taken out provisional patents on his "kitchen stove" receiver, which is working well, IW was moved to listen to 7 mc, but even this receiver will not work miracles—so back to 14 mc again.

The light on QV's antenna is troubling people who call in from time to time to inquire if the house is on fire. Whether this is what attracted 5XA who called on him when passing through Melbourne, is not known. Another one having trouble with lights is WU, who has been using the plate of his 809 to illuminate the shack.

Both QS and SQ are busy rebuilding, and QW is having trouble with his super, which seems infested with all those insects with which Providence has endowed supers in general. DP has his new rig working well, and his super-gainer is once more behaving as it should. IK is on phone, adding to the din on 7 mc, and threatens 14 mc in the near future.

This month's bunch of orchids goes to CX, who rang your correspondent, and informed him that he enjoyed reading the Key Section Notes. My public now numbers two!

## WESTERN ZONE. (VK3HG.)

A Sunday morning hook-up of stations in the zone is at last under way, with five stations so far taking part. But more are needed to keep it going satisfactorily, so join in

boys, and listen for the general CQ at 10 a.m. on 7 mc.

3TW.—"The busiest man in Australia." Has little time for radio and has passed the writing of these notes back to the original scribe.

3SZ.—Put the rig on 14 mc and got a taste of DX with a PK.

3XG.—Welcome to the zone hook-up, Ben. Getting some nice DX on 14 mc and wants Africa for the usual reason.

3WT.—Heard regularly on 7 mc phone.

3BU.—Also on 7 mc phone, but not so regularly.

3JA.—Still impatiently awaiting the return of his genemotor. Not on very much.

3KX.—Very consistent with the Europeans and North Africans.

3GQ and 3PE.—Did their bit in the recent bush fire traffic.

3AG.—Has left the zone for parts unknown.

3OW.—More interested in being in the air than on the air. Will soon qualify for his flying ticket.

3HG.—Getting a new country or two and nearing the century. Will shortly have elaborate V beam antennas erected on nearby hill.

## U.H.F. SECTION NOTES. (By 3JO)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21st.  
Field Day.

The results of the field day held on Sunday, February 26th, are not yet to hand, but it is interesting to recall the intended arrangements and locations used. Stations other than those recorded last month are:—3KQ Mt. Dandenong, 3QR Mt. Macedon 3UK Cape Schank, and 3RI on a boat in Port Phillip Bay. No notification was received from country stations of their intended activities. Details of schedules were as follows: 1100 to 1115, all VK3 stations to call VK7; 1115 to 1130, all VK3 stations to listen for VK7. It was felt that the higher powered c.c. stations in the city would have a much better chance of pushing a signal across to VK7 than the portable stations, while the latter, with more favorable receiving conditions, would be in a better position than the city stations to receive signals from VK7. It was therefore decided to arrange a quick check with both city and portable stations. To expedite this check, the

## Amateur Radio

various stations were numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on, the stations to come on in their proper order until reports had been received from all. In this way, it was hoped that all reports would be collected within 5 or 10 minutes, leaving the rest of the hour for contests between ourselves. This programme to be repeated every hour till 1700.

The results are now past history, and we hope to be able to record some very interesting reports in these notes next month. All stations participating are once again requested to forward a copy of their logs and activities to the secretary of this section prior to March 18th.

New call signs heard on 56 mc. during the month are 3CO, 3SG and 3KT. 3CO was using PP 210's, strength 718 here. 3SG used a 3 stage c.c. rig with 807 doubler as final stage with cathode modulation, R8 signal, though quality of speech rather poor. 3KT was operating the portable gear used by 3QR on the field day, and uses 41 triode osc. 42 mod., signal strength about R5. Other stations worked during the month—VK3YL, OT, XM, QR, HP, NB, RI and PS.

### Queensland Division

At the February meeting a very interesting lecture ably given by Harry Bremerman, 4HB, on the present standard of television in England, was presented to a fair gathering of members, who exhibited amazement at the advances made in this particular sphere, and many eyes gleamed when the system of

ultra short wave relaying for outside scenes, was described. The vans used for this particular work are fitted up most elaborately and the transmitter power is in kilowatts. Harry has just returned from a trip to England, where he lost no time in unearthing all the dope on television and passing the boys the "low down" on his arrival back.

We also had the pleasure of meeting and entertaining an old radio friend in the person of Mr. G. H. Grey, ZS1CU, old call ZT1A, who is tripping round the globe as radio operator. He was able to give us very interesting information in regard to conditions and hams generally in South Africa and places where he had called during his travels.

We would like to express our appreciation of the splendid work performed by those members during the recent bush fires in the southern state, the divisions concerned and members themselves. A splendid service to both the community and Amateur Radio.

The annual general meeting is to take place at 7.30 p.m. Friday, 31st March; location, Atcherley House, Petrie Bight, Brisbane. It will, as usual, take the form of a dinner and ham fest and we expect a record attendance. Subscription, 5/-. The trophies for the following awards will be presented:—W.I.A. Trophy, for outstanding performance during the year; Council Trophy, for best piece o. home made apparatus; Cran Trophy, best score during the contests of the year; Mackenzie Gold Trophy, for best Station. Entries are to reach the secretary, Box 1524V, G.P.O., Brisbane, before 15th March. Now make the competition strong and the



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## Amateur Radio

winning of the award worth while by sending your entry along.

4SD.—Back on the air again after a trip to N.Q.

4WT.—Has temporarily shifted his QRA to Red Hill and now has a TRF receiver recently acquired from 4RY.

4PX.—Building up a modulator with 6L6Gs and a DB mike.

4HU.—Shifted QRA and now is interested in the radio service racket.

4JP.—On 20 metre fone again after holidays and strenuous efforts swinging a club at the royal and ancient game.

4GU.—Selling out, but we find he is still on the air with QRP and TC 04/10.

4UU.—The surprise of the year. After a number of years off the air, Bill Chitham, treasurer of this division, has staged a comeback from a new location. Bill has landed in a nest of car ignition and power leaks. Maybe he will return to the old QRA.

4AN.—Off to Point Cook. Likewise 4RH to take up R.A.A.F. training.

4SA.—Knocked up a good score in the BERU, but with a T3 note most time. Sounds much better when you use that crystal, OM.

4VJ.—Has a framework built for a rotary beam and has designs for self-supporting elements using telescopic tubing.

4MD.—Bob McDermott, of Nambour, is the latest addition to the McDermott "radio" family, which is now broth. 4JM and "pop" 4WP.

4BB.—Was on during the BERU with his usual high score, visited the gang during his holidays in VIB.

4HR.—Rebuilding the transmitter rack and panel and shifting QRA to a very fb 5 metre location and particularly noise free area. How we envy that more.

4KH.—Yes, Bill is building yet another super on copper entirely and not dismantling the one used at present. What type of injection this one, Bill?

4HB.—Just back from England, where he followed up the latest methods of television and gliding activities.

4UR.—taken a course of elbow bending.

4UL.—Bad attack of YL-itis. along with 4UR took swag of port-

able gear to Bowen for holidays, but did not even open the gear up. According to 4UL QRM from YL's too bad, or is it too good?

4XO.—Mark is studying for commercial ticket in between 40 mx. QSO's, and when he is not operating at the talkies.

4DU.—Back at Kingaroy after a recent trip to NQ. Has 76 CO and 6V6G in the PA.

4HP.—is a new ham at Bundaberg, using 6V6G EC and 2 6V6Gs parallel.

4OK.—Returned home after being at "Bundy" for crushing season and is getting out with 4 watts. Has a 2nd operator on the job.

4KK.—Studying for commercial, will be visiting hams on an Easter trip to N.Q.

4JJ.—Just been presented with a junior op. Congrats. Says he will be back on if he can find a duster.

4KC from Port Moresby at present holidaying in Sydney.

4SR.—Tom is up in Cairns, N.Q., selling furniture.

4ES.—in Brisbane on the police force. Checks over car radios and what not in the radio system.

4RY.—Just landed VU7BR for his 92nd country. Won't be long now, Bill. Starting to get tougher.

4CG.—Has 56 mc transmitter on nightly from 8 p.m. with beam directed south, from Toowoomba, so if any of you boys happen to hear, say, Bing Crosby crooning on 56 mc, you may guess its Cliff 4CG's outfit from the Empire Theatre.

4JX.—Not heard of. Still getting over the VK/ZL.

4GA.—The man from the far north west. Flew down from Quamby to VIB, says its the only way to travel. Been doing good R.A.A.F. WR work in the N. West in connection with survey flights.

## South Australian Division

(By VK5KL.)

After the terrific bush fires had illustrated that emergency equipment is a necessity in every ham's shack and to be able to get it going at a moment's notice, it was decided to organise the whole scheme on a workable basis. Four sections have been organised consisting of North, South, East and West, each with a

## Amateur Radio

leader, who is to keep a log of all his members, including full details of business address, phone number, details of rig, receiver, xials, etc. Section leaders are as follow:— North, C. H. Castle, VK5KL; South, R. Pearce, VK5RK; East, F. Holsten, VK5LK; West, W. Lloyd, VK5HD. With all this in order a call for emergency equipment will see the boys in action within a very short time. Tests are to be arranged as practice.

On 1st March Mr. Frank Holsten will show the movie films taken at Echunga amongst the bush fires and this should prove a novel night. A good attendance is expected. Other films will make up the full evening. Two visits have been arranged to the G.P.O.; these necessitate limiting the members attending to 15. Please inform the secretary if you wish to go.

All will be interested to know that Eric Trebilcock of BRS 195 fame, and who is situated at Powell Creek, N.T., has obtained a temporary licence and so will be heard on the air. Eric will most likely use 20 mx, so keep a look out for him. No call officially announced yet. Congrats Eric, but don't worry us with QTR.

Conditions on 20 here seen fair, Asiatic stations being well to the foreground, but Yanks being conspicuous by their absence. Forty metres will yield some nice contacts for those who wish to try FA8BG and a few Gs audible around 6.30 a.m. 10 is not too good, but 80 mx is popular for Sunday night talks.

We all will be pleased to know that Malcolm Gray, 6SU, has gone to Suva for a few years with Government work. May hear him with a new call from there.

### GREY ZONE, (VK5LC.)

I do not know if conditions have changed of late, but previous to going to 5RE's a week ago conditions were bad on 40 and 20, and only arrived home yesterday after a very pleasant trip, so haven't had much time to listen.

5HR back in the game in great style with a new power pack delivering 20 watts CW and 12 watts on phone; also bought a car so things are looking up. How do you do it, Bill? Thanks for the notes.

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5RJ.—After years of facing a mike, Darce is going to stage a comeback to CW; it is said that the key is all polished and ready for action. DX bug biting Darce? Building a new rig too, complete with all gadgets for 100 per cent. CW vacuum tube keying.

5KJ.—George informs me that he will be on again about the end of February with 30 watt power supply and 6L6G-6L6G rig, and he is inquiring about Vee Beams, 82 long on 80 and 40. Say George, is this game wireless? He is on the air from 8VK. Thanks for the notes.

5YM.—Norm. active with E.C. rig on CW and I was copying him quite good strength at Renmark, although he has a poor radiator which is badly shielded with trees. He had lot of trouble trying to keep my sked with 5RE and I think he called my rx a few names.

5WG.—Wally still inactive as far as I know; hear 5JT calling him for reserve work, but no reply.

5NW.—Bob should be on week-ends, but as I have been away, haven't heard him.

5WJ.—What's the matter with you Bill? Haven't heard you on for months. Don't you get "A.R."?

5BK.—The above applies to you, Jack, except that you are a member, but I am not sure of Bill.

5MP.—What's the latest, Len? Still experimenting with 5 mx?

5TL.—Have you that fone going Tom? Haven't hear you, but here's hoping.

5LG.—Had to open envelope to include your notes, Leith. So you built a gainer that wouldn't super and you have had to rebuild T.R.F. again.

5LC.—Been away for two week-ends, but previously tried 20 mx, and over a period of week only had one QSO, ZL-R8 and that was in the middle of day. Conditions on 20 mx DX seem to be down a lot on last year.

Have only had three letters this month, from 5KJ, 5HR and 5LG (Leith's arrived only in the nick of time). Say chaps, let's have notes from you on your activities (if any), also your intentions, because these notes are month old when you read them.

### BARKER ZONE.

..... (By VK5GW.) .....  
Notes for this zone are scarce this

month. Condx at Narracoorte have been and still are very bad. There has not been a sig. heard from any of the Barker gang, although 5GW and 5XR have been listening on the BERU contest for a week.

VK5 sigs (CW) are very seldom heard here, and the absence of VK5 phone has been very noticeable. 5BF and 5BG have not been heard here for some time.

5XR working on mx phone with a few good contacts; Bert so far is R9 from KA7.

5TW.—Now has xtal on low freq. end of 7mc band, about 7005 kc, 2 stage xtal rig, with phone later.

5BN.—Giving up 43s in favour of 48s in PP parallel on phone. Not doing much radio in summer; gaining reputation as wet weather operator.

5CJ.—Consistent R7-R9 repts on fone from interstate 25 watts to 807. Has rebuilt 5 mx rig on aluminium chassis.

5PB.—Rather interested again. been assisting 5GW erecting antennas.

5GW.—Trying to beat Narracoorte conditions with the antenna system. No luck so far. Has tried zepp, centre fed zepp, single wire matched imp., doublets and 8JK beam. Best results so far have been VK4 on 20 mx and PK7 on 40 mx.

Well chaps lets have something for next time.

## Western Australian Division

(General meeting held every month on second Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Division headquarters, Room 2, Melba Chambers, corner Hay and Milligan streets, Perth.)

VK6 was not to be left free from disaster as many of us thought at first. While bush fires and heat waves raged in Eastern Australia, Port Hedland on the north-west coast was hit by a cyclone which destroyed all communications and did enormous damage. The first intimation of what was going on up there came from a message from the A.A.M.S. base station which suffered damage to its aerial system by high wind and damage to its gear by sea watter. "Port Hedland completely surround-

ed by sea and many houses washed away" was the brief message sent out. A pedal-set operator fortunately heard the transmission and QSP to another who in turn passed it on to Perth. In the long story of the disaster two facts stand out, the first that operator John Richards (VK6JR), relieving 6FH as "Flying Doctor" base operator at Hedland, did sterling service in restoring communication, and the second, that radio was invaluable. Surely these facts and the striking examples witnessed in Victoria and South Australia will awaken all concerned to the need for an organised amateur emergency net. The good work done by (strictly speaking) unorganised amateur radio could be increased in value a hundredfold by organisation and official sanction in advance of future possible disasters.

Reverting to less serious matters, conditions in W.A. have been f.a.q. lately with nothing really startling happening in the DX world. 7 mc gets terrifically noisy at times and even 14 mc has its moments of QRN level. Of 28 mc little is known; the writer has not been listening there and all others questioned either say the same or tell of fruitless listening.

In the Winchell Way—

6SA received quietly sarcastic razz from several stations on 7 mc the other day when he astonished Messrs. Heaviside and Appleton by putting on fone! Both layers doing as well as can be expected; no callers (on fone) for fourteen days.

6AG back from gallivanting in Eastern States—cheery voice heard over 6SA on aforementioned historic occasion.

6BB still persevering with 56 mc skeds—has exotic taste in highbrow music and says that this enables listeners to identify 6BB from ordinary hams (!!!)—boy! bring more Beethoven!

6MW back from holidays and back on ether—renewing old W friendships.

6MN comes on 7 mc with one of those rare 100 per cent. T9x, non-clicking, gold-filled signals and tries, vainly, to separate code signals from a local SWL-serenader—said serenader may be heard on 40 and 20 mx simultaneously in most parts of

metropolitan area—sometimes he calls "CQ forty" and sometimes "CQ twenty"—does it matter?

6EC at last active in Nedlands on 7 and 14 mc—hope he has all the answers ready when the DX fone men tell him his xtal doubles into the Yank fone band—and why not?—it's all part of the band.

6FL down in Perth for Country Week Cricket and renewing old friendships and meeting others in the flesh for first time—should relish prospect of a little work as relaxation after it's all over.

6JC now headmistress of large college at (no foolin') Charlie's Creek (via Donnybrook)—expects to be on the air soon—QRP on batteries—says she has found creek but Chas. nowhere to be seen.

6MY will be in the thick of new classes at W.I.A. by time these lines appear—still threatening to come back on air one of these days—whereas—

6JS actually HAS fulfilled a similar promise.

6LJ not heard much these days—had taste of Senior BERU and gave it best.

6KW still rolling 'em in on 14 mc—been entertaining visitors in the shape of 6TX and 6FL.

6RL after all these years—when heard recently said to be working portable—where, Ralph? Valhalla?

6FO reported to be preparing for comeback.

VK6WZ.

### Tasmanian Division

(By 7YL.)

The monthly meeting of this division was held in the Y.M.C.A. rooms on Tuesday, 14th. The northern zone held their meeting on the first Thursday of the month and to the inward correspondence from the North arrived in good time for meeting here. Will Southern members of the Institute please note that meetings are held on every second Tuesday of each month.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of the assistant secretary the task of recording the minutes fell on the shoulders of 7AL, who was able to keep up with the fast and furious discussions that took place ("furious" refers only to the rapidity of

the conversation and not to the tempers of the participants of the aforesaid discussion).

Several suggestions made by members of the Northern Zone were adopted and after various business matters had been completed, a very interesting lecture was given by Mr. Chas. Miller (7CM) on the subject of "Beam Antennae." The lecture proved most helpful and many of those present, I am sure, resolved to try out the various "beams" when time and cash permitted.

It was decided to send the secretary (Mr. H. Moorehouse) to the forthcoming convention in VK3 as the Tasmanian delegate. "Chummy" has been in the Tasmanian division of the Institute for ages and has its affairs at his fingertips.

It was decided by the council that in the future non-members would have to send a stamped addressed envelope to obtain their QSL cards. No cards could be personally given or delivered by the QSL manager. Town members may obtain their cards only by attending the monthly meetings, where in the future they would be distributed.

7CM.—Charlie has just completed his studies at College. He headed the list of "Leaving Certificate" candidates with just the bare eight credits(!) and is now taking an Engineering course at the University. Despite this finds plenty of time to work DX. Has an W8TK beam. Finds that signals are at least 2R's louder when using it.

7CT.—Terry is thinking of buying another generator to supply his voltage as he has an FB transmitter and no juice to make it go. Has been waiting for the A.C. mains to go through Rokeby, but they just haven't.

7KV.—Is still in the land of living. Heard on 20 mx now and again working good spots of DX.

7PA.—On shift work at present and has to get beauty sleep during day so unable to go along to meetings.

7DH, who is on the staff of one of the local broadcasting stations, is another who just can't get along to the W.I.A. room on Tuesdays.

7JB.—At present "baking" in VK2 and according to reports is about as sunburned as a "darkie." Hopes to be back in VK7 some time in May. Buck has managed to visit

a few Sydney hams, but hasn't much time, being very busy.

7YL.—Finding dx most patchy. Heard TI5JJ on fone R8 solid last Saturday and next night could barely hear Yanks.

## NORTHERN ZONE NOTES.

(By VK7LZ.)

Since last month's notes were published the Amateurs in Launceston have reformed the Northern Zone, which in future we hope to make practically self supporting.

At this early date I cannot give all details, as we are waiting on a reply from headquarters in Hobart.

Officers elected at the meeting were:—Mr. Jebb (chairman), Mr. C. Robinson (VK7KR), secretary; Mr. C. Wright, QSL manager. If any of the proposed Northern Zone "Country" members have any ideas or suggestions both for, or against, this scheme the secretary would be pleased to receive same. Address all letters to Mr. C. Robinson, 8 Howick street, Launceston.

It will be pleasing to everyone to know that the North and South have mutually overcome all difficulties and that both are working to make the W.I.A. stronger in Tasmania than ever before.

Before concluding, I would like to ask Federal Headquarters to give the Tasmanian Division their full support as in the past we have only heard of contests after they are over or nearly so and other correspondence as far as I can gather is sometimes very very late.

DX is very poor here at present and therefore the activities of most are practically nil, although it was very pleasing to hear 7RK staging a comeback a few evenings ago.

Anyone wanting French India as another country should keep a lookout on 14210 kcs for FN1C, his signals come in rather good down here and he uses both phone and CW.

Owing to the fact that no one knew the rules for the BERU contest the Northern Zone was not represented this year.

This month advantage has been taken of space allowed the zone in this publication to acquaint other zone members of just what the amateurs in Launceston are doing towards getting organised, so space does not permit us to give the personal doings of members; however,

this will be remedied in the next issue.

Nothing is heard of the coastal amateurs here in Launceston and I cannot write notes about their doings, so what say, chaps. Drop me a line someone.

Also all members take note.—The next zone meeting is to be held in the Launceston Y.M.C.A. at 8 p.m. on 30th March and we want a record muster.

### New Guinea Notes

9GW.—George has built a new rig using 6L6s and getting good results. What about some dx notes George. That R9 report from W sounds as if some good dx is in the offing. Come up and join the Rag-Chewers' Club on 40 and tell us all about it om.

9XX.—Where's those notes, Basil om? I hv an idea you hv some vy nice dx up the sleeve over there so what! The 40 meter R.C.C. is in full swing every afternoon om and some fb wrk is done there oc so come on in.

9DK.—Ernie has a 6P6 osc es a 6xv final 2 watts in all and does some good wrk. Heard your wrking PK6XX the other nite oc hi! Ernie tells me if no one comes back to his cq he pulls the big switch es listens to B.C. till condx improve. At present talking darkly of a new rig with an 809 final es directive ants. Don't pull the 6P6 "lik-lik" down tho oc!

9WL.—At present Laurie is in a spot of bother. His converter went on the ice and then the rig developed trouble. Last time hrd on the air was hrd to be muttering about taking to raising chickens or home brew. When the converter went phut he was forced to use batteries es low pwr abt 6 watts es was looking forward to the time when the rig would be on full pwr agn hi! 10 watts.

9MC.—Uses abt 4t watts out of genemotor es batteries. Bill is a prospector and tells me he can't find a good spot. The ideal seems to be a place with a few high trees and a

good bit of gold mixed with the earth. When you find that possey Bill peg me out a QTH too. His main trouble at the moment seems to be antenna, but the last few times hv been much better om.

9BW.—Some of that dx would be very acceptable Bill for the notes and what about it. 44 countries es about 24 zones about three weeks ago. How many more now om? We are going to lose Bill soon as he is going South due to illness of the xyl.

9RC.—Don't know much abt you Ron oc, but next time we will get some news off you. Let's hr from you oc.

9DM.—Staged a comeback after a long absence, talking darkly of a new rig in the offing. Good to hr you on the air again Dudley and hpe the new rig comes to light soon, but what's wrong with the old one? Let us hr more about the new doings om.

9RM.—The latest VK9 and he will be on the air before these notes are printed. The rig is going to be xtal osc and a 6L6 amp on cw only for a start. Good luck Peter and let us know how the dx comes in. The QSL crd is going to be a real New Guinea one and vy fb too. Peter tells me the operating times will be from 6 p.m. till 6 a.m. solid.

9VG.—Not doing much at present. Wrkd a few Sth Americans, TG9BA, KF6DHW es others. The new NC101X is in Port Moresby and VG is rapidly becoming public enemy no. 1 at Guinean Airways office (its getting so that they are not answering the telephone to Bulolo calls). All the antennas are in the course of being overhauled ready for a big dx season on the arrival of the new rx.

And this month's short story begins, "There was once a VK9 ham who did not get a single SWL card in his mail."

This is the first notes sent down from New Guinea and I would like all you VK9 hams to rally round and send in some notes on ur doings dx and rigs, etc. Tell em to me via the 40 mc. rag chews and I will make a note of them.

VK9VG.



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